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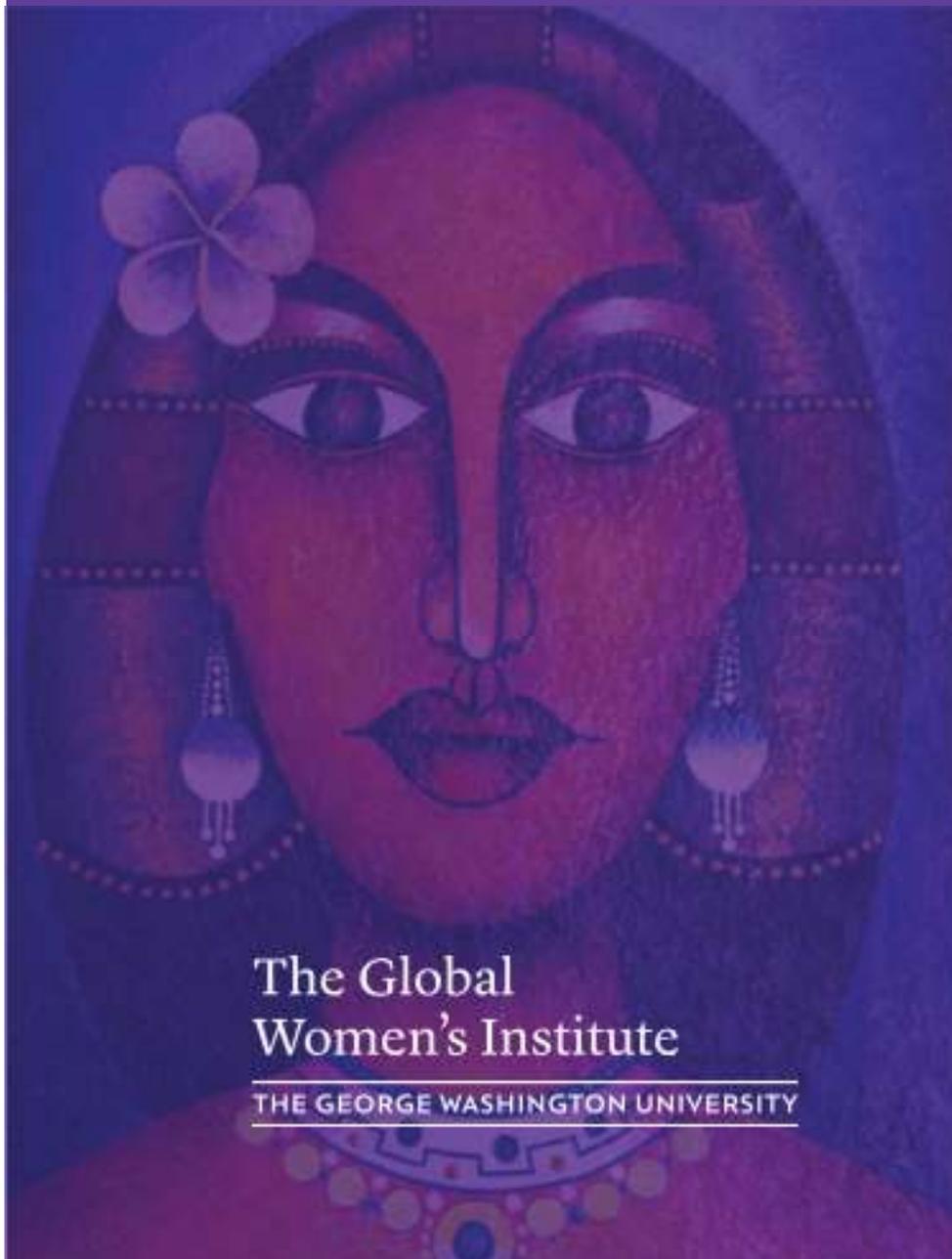
**BRIDGING  
RESEARCH  
& ACTION**  
FOR CHANGE

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The Global  
Women's Institute

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## What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls: Building on global best practices

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# Ending Violence against Women and Girls is part of the new UN SDGs



# THE LANCET

November, 2014

[www.thelancet.com](http://www.thelancet.com)

## Violence against women and girls



"On the eve of a new global development agenda, we call for greater action and an explicit commitment to the elimination of violence against women and girls."

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## Violence against women and girls 1

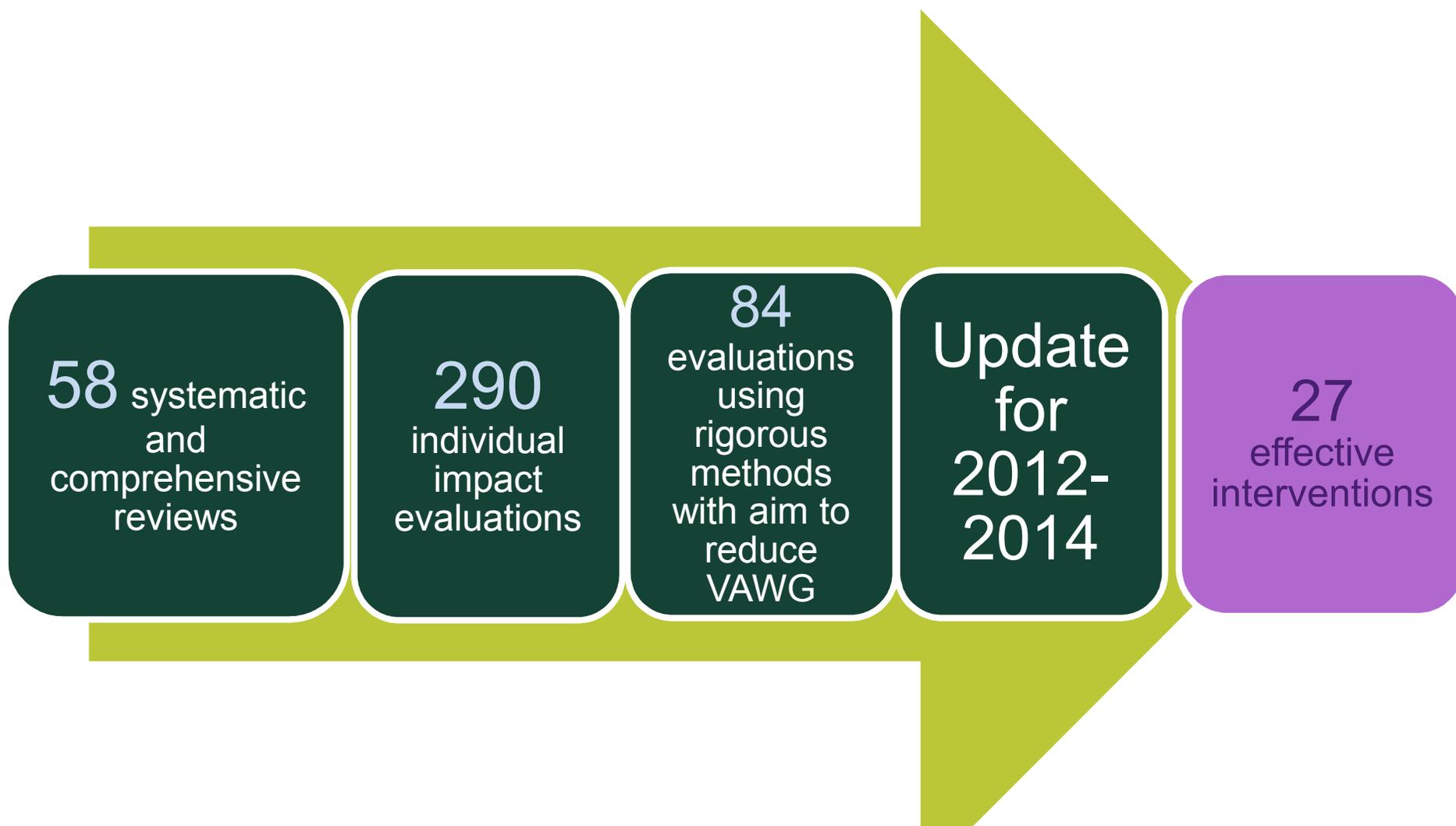


# Prevention of violence against women and girls: what does the evidence say?

*Mary Ellsberg, Diana J Arango, Matthew Morton, Floriza Gennari, Sveinung Kiplesund, Manuel Contreras, Charlotte Watts*



# Systematic Review of Reviews of effective interventions to prevent violence against women and girls



# An integrated approach to ending violence against women

**Access  
to  
Justice**

**Support  
Services  
for  
Survivors**

**Violence  
Prevention**

**Strengthening the enabling environment for addressing violence against women**

# Current evidence is skewed towards:



- High-income countries
- Response vs. prevention
- Focus on IPV

# In low and middle income countries:

- Greater focus on prevention
- More forms of VAWG – child marriage, FGM, sexual assault
- Address gender equality and social norms
- Engagement of men and boys



# 28 Health sector interventions evaluated

Individualized care/psycho-social for at risk pregnant women

Batterers intervention

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**Community mobilization**

Non-professional mentor support to improve physical and mental wellbeing

Home visitations to promote healthy parenting behaviors

11 interventions were effective in reducing VAWG

# Small changes can make a big difference



“The doctor helped me feel better by saying that I didn’t deserve this treatment, and he helped me make a plan to leave the house the next time my husband came home drunk”

(Salvadoran woman)

# Characteristics of effective health sector prevention interventions

Encourage autonomy and empowerment of women

Combine multiple approaches as part of a single intervention.

Duration of intervention is more than six months

Address social norms regarding acceptability of violence

Have elements of psychosocial interventions, victim advocacy

# A Call to Action to End Violence against Women and Girls

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**LOCAL,  
NATIONAL  
AND GLOBAL  
LEADERS AND  
POLICY MAKERS  
COMMIT TO  
5 ACTIONS**



## **SHOW LEADERSHIP.**

Recognise violence against women and girls as human rights violations, and a barrier to health and development. Speak out against violence, and allocate the needed resources to prevent and respond to violence.



## **CREATE EQUALITY.**

Develop and enforce national level laws, implement policies and strengthen capabilities of institutions to address violence against women and promote equality between women and men.



## **CHANGE NORMS.**

Invest in violence prevention programming, to promote the empowerment of women, gender equitable social norms, non-violent behaviours, and effective non-stigmatising responses for violence survivors.



## **CHALLENGE SECTORS.**

Strengthen the role of sectors (health, security, education, justice), by integrating training, allocating budgets, creating policies and implementing systems to identify and support survivors, as part of a co-ordinated multi-sectoral response.



## **INVEST IN RESEARCH AND PROGRAMMING.**

Support research and programming to learn how best to prevent and respond to violence against women, inform policies and monitor progress.

(“Violence against women and girls: A call to action” *The Lancet*, 2014)

# Building critical mass



Source: Raising Voices, Uganda



**CREATE  
EQUALITY**

2

Develop and enforce national level laws, implement policies and strengthen capacities of institutions to address violence against women and promote equality between women and men.

# Property ownership reduces risk of VAWG



In India only **7%** of women who owned property reported violence, compared to **49%** of women who did not own property.



# CHANGE NORMS

# 3

Invest in violence prevention programming, to promote the empowerment of women, gender equitable social norms, non-violent behaviours, and effective non-stigmatising responses for violence survivors.

# SASA! How does it work?



Learning about the community

Selecting Community Activists

Fostering 'power within' staff and community activists



Helping activists gain confidence

Informal activities

Encouraging critical thinking about men's 'power over' women



Strengthening skills and connections between community members

Joining 'power with' others to support change



Trying new behaviors, celebrating change

Fostering the 'power to' make positive change

involving community members, leaders and institutions to build critical mass

# SASA! Intervention strategies

Multiple strategies to reach all levels in the community to affect social norm change

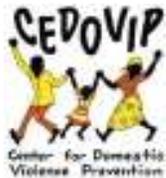
- Local Activism
- Media and Advocacy
- Communication Materials
- Training

Three key elements

- Phasing in ideas systematically led by community members
- Reaching creating critical mass across all sectors with multiple strategies for intense exposure
- Content focus on "power" which is provocative & decreases defensiveness, & gets personal



# SASA! Study Results



LONDON  
SCHOOL of  
HYGIENE  
& TROPICAL  
MEDICINE



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

 Raising Voices

# Reduced social acceptance of physical violence in relationships\*

Percentage of women and men who believe physical violence against a partner is not acceptable\*

**76%**

In SASA! Communities

**26%**

In Control Communities

“I have to behave well [and intervene in violence] with the help of groups like SASA! and the police, government in general. However, I should be the first person to prevent the violence in the community.”  
*Male community member*

In the past we would just ignore if a man beat his wife but now I think it is not okay to ignore ...”  
*Female community member*

Levels of physical partner violence  
against women **52%** lower in  
SASA! communities than in control  
communities\*

"I feel so proud of my marriage at this moment...now people admire us and our children...We do not quarrel neither do we use violence against our children..."

*Female community member*

"When it comes to me I have changed a lot. I no longer beat her as I used to, I no longer use abusive language on her..."

*Male community member*



# CHALLENGE SECTORS

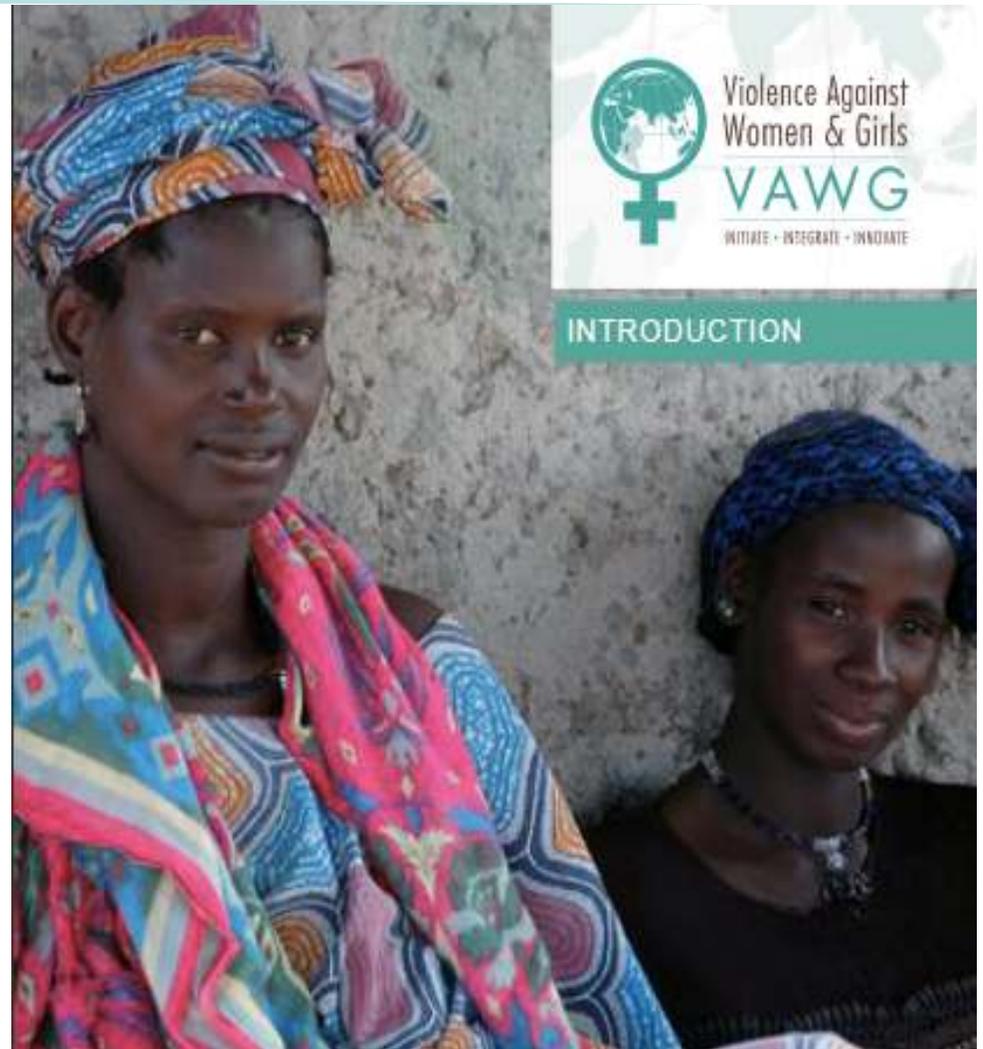
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Strengthen the role of the sectors (health, security, education, justice, etc) by integrating training on violence against women into curricula, allocating budgets, creating policies and implementing systems to identify and support survivors, as part of a co-ordinated multi-sectoral response.

# The VAWG Resource Guide

Developed by GWI, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. Provides sector-specific briefs for practitioners to integrate violence against women and girls prevention/response in the following fields:

- Health
- Education
- Finance and Enterprise Development
- Citizen Security
- Social Protection
- Disaster Relief
- Transportation



# Economic + gender empowerment can reduce violence against women



Microfinance and training on violence, together with community mobilization activities **reduced domestic violence by 50%** in intervention group over 2 years

(IMAGE project, South Africa, Kim, et al)

# Gender Equity Movement in Schools (GEMS)



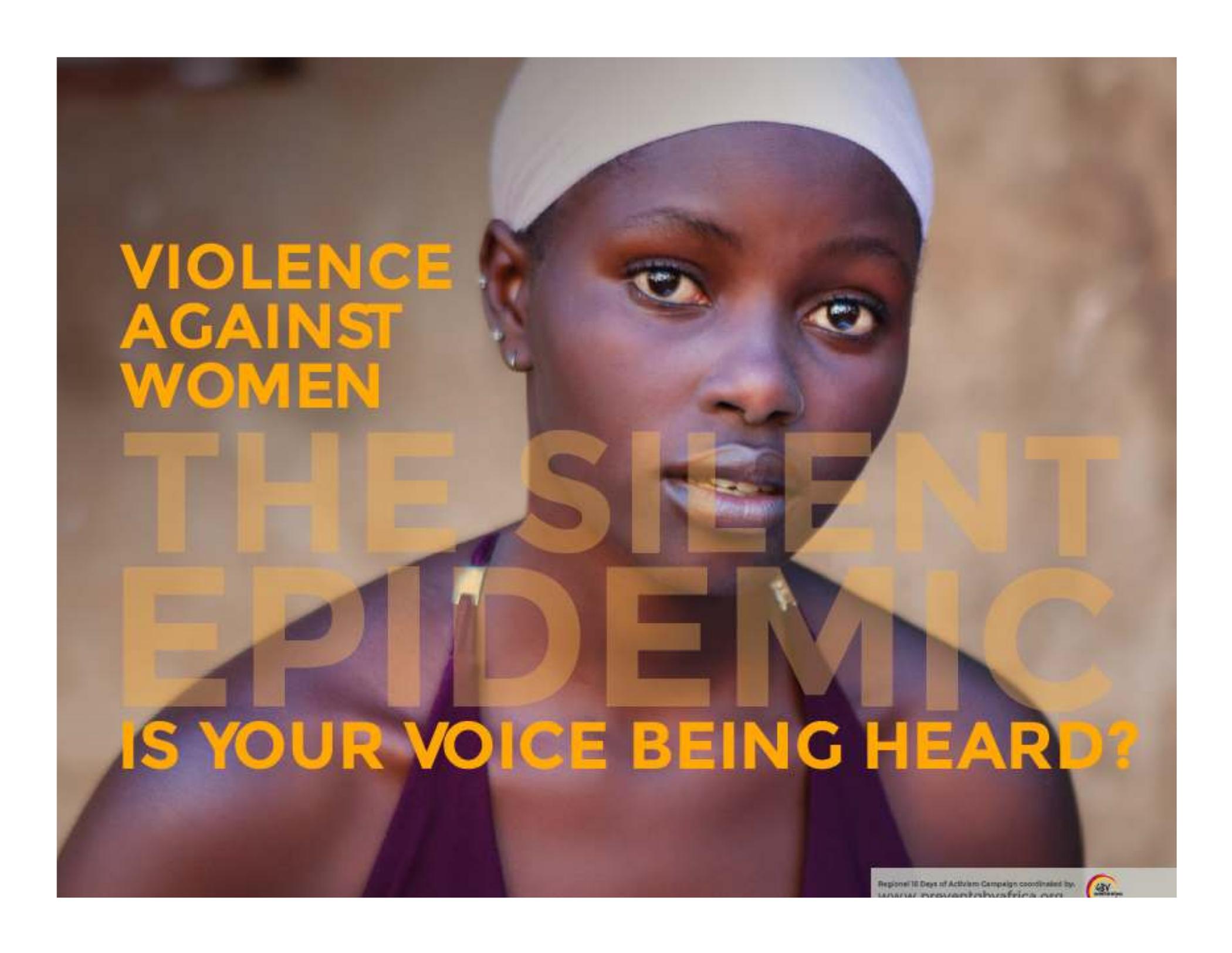
- Two-year intervention, implemented by ICRW + partners in India
- Group education activities + awareness campaigns for 6-7<sup>th</sup> graders
- Higher gender equality scores + positive behavior changes



# INVEST IN RESEARCH AND PROGRAMMING

5

Support research and programming to learn how to best prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, inform policies and monitor progress.



**VIOLENCE  
AGAINST  
WOMEN**

**THE SILENT  
EPIDEMIC**

**IS YOUR VOICE BEING HEARD?**